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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

IN order that our summaries may correspond, so far as possible, to the calendar year, "The Quarterly Records of Gifts, Appointments, Retirements, and Deaths" will hereafter appear in the numbers for February, May, August, and November. Under the heading "Educational Gifts" we have included all donations from private individuals for distinctively educational purposes, so far as they have come to our notice. We have included, therefore, not only gifts to schools and colleges, but those to libraries and museums, since in many cases it is otherwise impossible to draw a sharp line. We have not included in our summaries appropriations by the national, state, or local governments for educational purposes, nor have we included the formal transfer by Mrs. Stanford to the Leland Stanford Junior University of securities and other property, with an estimated value of \$30,000,000, the largest single gift for educational purposes in the history of the world. Yet, omitting these, the gifts for the year 1901, as catalogued in our pages, foot up the enormous sum of \$43,233,635. These recent educational gifts, increasing in amount as the years go by, are of immense importance in any estimate of the future of education in America, and in the opinions of some are not an unmixed blessing. Certainly, so far as the financial basis is concerned, the United States will soon stand ahead of any country in the world, but the question cannot help suggesting itself, Will it advance as rapidly and to such prominence in intellectual matters as it does in the material side of education?

While speaking of our Record it may not be out of place to say that since the *American Naturalist* came into the hands of the present management its notices of appointments, resignations, and deaths has been the most complete published. In these years 1717 personal notes have appeared under these three headings.